

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19989 012144Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 SSM-03 /107 W
-----023983 020714Z /12

R 012123Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2293
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EG XF
SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF PEACE PROCESS

REF: CAIRO 19858

SUMMARY. PRESS PLAYS UP PRESIDENT CARTER AGREEMENT WITH
EGYPT ON NECESSITY FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND SADAT
PROMISE TO PERFORM NEXT YEAR'S PRAYERS "IN HEART
OF SINAI". MILD TREATMENT OF HUSSEIN WHILE SOVIETS AND
REJECTIONISTS LAMBASTED. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 19989 012144Z

1. PRESIDENT CARTER'S "MIDDLE EAST PRESS CONFERENCE"
TREATED SENSATIONALLY BY MEDIA NOV 30 - DEC 1. MOST
PROMINENT TREATMENT ACCORDED STATEMENTS "I AGREE WITH
EGYPT ON NECESSITY OF COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION AND NOT UNI-
LATERAL AGREEMENTS (AHAM BANNER); "SADAT'S TRIP IS GREAT
ACCOMPLISHMENT" (AKHBAR RED BANNER). PRESS ALSO NOTED
PROMINENTLY PRESIDENT ATTEMPTING CONVINCE JORDAN, SYRIA

AND LEBANON TO PARTICIPATE AT CAIRO CONFERENCE.

2. NEXT YEAR IN SINAI. OTHER MAIN MEDIA STORY DEC 1 WAS SADAT PLEDGE TO SINAI TRIBAL NOTABLES "I PROMISE YOU THAT WE SHALL PERFORM THE NEXT 'ID PRAYERS IN HEART OF SINAI" (GUMHURIYYA RED BANNER). SADAT DID NOT ELABORATE.

3. THE CRITICS. SOVIETS HIT FOR REJECTION INVITATION TO CAIRO CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL) AND CONTINUE BE LUMPED WITH REJECTIONISTS IN PRESS CRITICISM. REJECTIONISTS TREATED HARSHLY IN EDITORIALS, WHILE PRESS TOOK PLEASURE DESCRIBING "TUG OF WAR" BETWEEN BAGHDAD AND IRAQ--WITH ARAFAT CAUGHT IN BETWEEN. PAPERS NOW REPORT MINI SUMMITS WILL BE HELD IN BOTH CAPITALS, WITH TRIPOLI TO BEGIN TODAY AND BAGHDAD DEC 5.

4. JORDAN. TREATMENT OF JORDAN AND KING HUSSEIN STILL MILD. PRESS CLAIMED HUSSEIN WILL HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE DEC 1 "TO ELABORATE HIS POSITION" AND SEEMED EXPECT HE WILL BE FORTHCOMING. AHRAH INCLUDED KING AMONGST "SOBER VOICES", OTHERS BEING SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, WHO MAINTAINING BALANCE IN FACE OF "TUMULTUOUS STREAM OF MADNESS".

5. PLO. PCC MEETING REPORTEDLY HELD, WITH ARAFAT IN ATTENDANCE, TO EXAMINE SADAT INITIATIVE (REJECTIONISTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFUSED ATTEND). ABU MAYZAR QUOTED IN DAMASCUS SAYING SAUDI ARABIA HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION TO TRIPOLI. AHRAH DISMISSED STATEMENT AS FUTILE WHIMSY. MEANWHILE, FRONT PAGE COLUMN BY AKHBAR CHAIRMAN MUSA SABRY HIT MOSCOW AND DAMASCUS FOR JOINT ATTEMPT DUMP ARAFAT AND SOW DISSENSION IN PALESTINIAN RANKS. UNCLEAR WHETHER REMARKS DESIGNED HOLD DOOR AJAR FOR ARAFAT OR SOW FURTHER CHAOS AMONGST OPPOSITION. IT IS PROBABLY BOTH.

6. DAYAN CHIMES IN. PRESS CARRIED PROMINENTLY DAYAN BONN COMMENT THAT ONLY EGYPT HAS OPTION OF MAKING WAR OR PEACE ALONE; OTHER ARABS CAN DO NEITHER WITHOUT EGYPT. STATEMENT USED TO REMIND SYRIA IT HAS OPTION OF JOINING SADAT OR FINDING ITSELF LEFT OUT OF ALL CAMPS. EILTS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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